

Kenk's amphipod named candidate for protection

A tiny creature found only in five watery locations in and near Washington, D.C., [Kenk's amphipod](#) is the Northeast Region's sixth and latest candidate for Endangered Species Act protection. Living primarily underground, the amphipod is colorless, has no eyes and grows to 1/4 inch. It may eat bacteria and fungi, but it is hard to find and therefore difficult to study. Decreasing water quality is a concern for the species, but the Service is working with the National Park Service and the State of Maryland to address this and other impacts to the amphipod's habitat.

Today the Service published its annual list of candidates for ESA protection. Kenk's amphipod is a priority 8 on a scale of 1 to 12, 1 having the highest priority for ESA protection. This means the amphipod has a moderate level of imminent threats. Other candidate species in the Northeast Region are:

- [New England cottontail](#) - 2 (a rabbit)
- [Diamond darter](#) - 2 (a fish)
- [Red knot](#) - 3 (a bird)
- [Hirsts' panic grass](#) - 5 (a plant)
- [Bog asphodel](#) - 8 (a plant)

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